

BLOOMINGTON ARTS COMMISSION (BAC)

p.1

September 12, 2012 meeting, McCloskey Conference Room

ATTENDING: Jan Grant, Peter Jacobi, Sally Gaskill, Patricia Pizzo, Lynn Schwartzberg, Paul Sturm, Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Jean Kautt, Craig Widen, Mary Norman

ABSENT: no one

EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison), Andrea Chwee (City intern)

Jan Grant called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. Jan welcomed two guests to the meeting, Jenny a grad student from the school of Journalism, covering the meeting for an article, and Janna, an informatics major.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Aug 8, 2012

Jan expressed thanks for the email reports. Motion by Craig to approve minutes; second by Peter; motion passed unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT

Municipal Arts Fund (account 402) balance = \$12,500 (with nothing outstanding)

Arts Commission Operating Fund (account 403) balance = \$10,656

STAFF REPORTS – reports by Miah Michaelsen

Addition to the emailed report: Dave Williams from the Parks Department is considering a change to the interior of the 3rd Street bridge. The location is being painted repeatedly because of graffiti. One thought is to cover the surface with mosaics. Discussion was postponed until the November meeting.

Jan asked about the BAC project reports that are still outstanding. Windfall and Cardinal have yet to submit a final report. In addition, Cardinal has yet to submit a final report for grants received from the BCT and BEAD. Craig mentioned that Cardinal also failed to give credit to the BAC for the grant monies received. Sally offered to contact the new development director and discuss this issue.

OLD BUSINESS – reports by Miah Michaelsen (except as noted)

South Walnut Street Gateway % for the Arts

- Mary joined the sub-committee for the public art project on S. Walnut Street streetscape and Paul stepped away. The current subcommittee members are: Martina, Mary, Lynn, Jan, Sally
- Jan reported that the subcommittee met twice, on site and in Miah's office
- It was suggested that the BAC offer a workshop to artists on how to submit a proposal. The expectation is for a summer 2013 installation of the artwork.

Public Art Master Planning (PAMP) Update

- Subcommittee met twice since the last BAC meeting and has 2-meetings worth of editing
- The committee is working through the definition of terms.
- One area of discussion includes the evaluation of public art projects. Specifically, what are the essential criteria? Jan asked the committee to voice any major issues with the text. Alain expressed concern regarding bullet 3, "enrich local environment" and wanted to see "cultural" included in the point. This was followed by much discussion and the subcommittee is charged with discussing this further.
- The "Capacity" section was discussed. Paul voiced concern that we only discuss "value" and not "cost" and so the latter should be omitted since it isn't covered. This was also followed by much discussion.

NEW BUSINESS –

Document Access

- Miah reported that the BAC will have a shared repository of info that is City ITS-approved
- Committee members need to have a Gmail account in order to have access to the files. Please send your Gmail addresses to Miah.

City Art Inventory

- Patti expressed the need for a current city art inventory, noting the recent acquisition of two pieces of Rosemary Miller's work. Miah assured Patti that we have an electronic inventory that includes digital images. It was last updated ca. 3 years ago. They agreed that updating it annually might be a great project for an intern.
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FOCUS TOPIC**From the Public Art Master Plan "What should we be doing? What do we need?"**

- Sally suggested that we should consider what is artistic diversity and proposed three areas: variety of expressions, old vs. new, local vs. distant
- Miah suggested that we look at how Parks and Rec makes selections for their community events. NB: we have no impact on how artists are selected. P&R lists the performance venues, describes the application process (which includes a request for a DVD and photos). P&R is looking for performers with a history of well-attended performances. The criteria for selection includes: review of musical submission, looking for specific styles (based on audience surveys), groups/individuals that have the potential for generating at least a 300-person audience, and preference is given to local musicians. The P&R selects a subset of applicants and then sends the list to potential sponsors in an attempt to do some "matchmaking." The sponsors then chose an artist. Importantly, artists are not permitted to contact sponsors.
- Alain mentioned that the BAC grant program is great – but we need to improve upon how we communicate it. The BAC embraces diversity, but the message just isn't getting through to the groups. We need to "get the word out" better. Craig expressed concern that the non- 'polished' members of the community aren't accessing the BAC monies. Paul noted that these are tax monies, and the organizations must be able to show fiscal responsibility. We should consider having training sessions so that these organizations can do a better job. We want diversity, but we must maintain capacity, accountability and responsibility. It was mentioned that we should be targeting the changing demographics in our community and being even more public about what the BAC is doing. Alain suggested that we need to focus on diversity in art. We, as a group, need to be aware of the undercurrents of what is happening. For example, at the Jacob's S-o-M there is a huge amount of art happening that is not presented formally. Miah pointed out that our guidelines don't discuss diversity. We might consider discussing this at our November meeting. This could include diversity of form, artists. Should we be overt in our requests for diversity? Alain mentioned that our community benefits from established art as well. Miah mentioned the Trained Eye Art Center – which includes ca. 25 artists – that has been working with BEAD/B-Line on enhancement and infrastructure improvements through the Business Enhancement program. The artists were new to the granting process and it took a lot of work to get the application competitive. We might need to go to organizations like them i.e., encourage and support organizations that create activities that are beyond our traditional granting program's reach. Sally agreed that that is exactly what we should be doing, but not under the auspice of this small arts grant program. Martina recalled the work of the subcommittee that explored the possibility of an Individual Artists granting program. Paul mentioned that the subcommittee recommended that we do it, but that it was not a rush. Conversation shifted to the grant workshops – participation was good, both established and new organizations participated. The workshop raises the profile of the BAC. Martina mentioned that the quality of the grant applications that the BAC received has improved. Miah noted that it strengthens the application and results in stronger projects.
- Returning to the conversation about P&R: the BAC might consider sharing some narrative thoughts and/or recommendations. These could include making a statement suggesting/requesting to work with other city commissions to embrace diversity. The question was posed: should we ask to partner with P&R to increase the diversity? Maybe invite them to conversations with the BAC? Should the BAC consider asking to enhance artistic diversity in other city departments? Most projects go through the Mayor's office. Recently, the Planning Commission has been dealing with the Transit Station and is involving the BAC. However, this isn't true for the new Hyatt Hotel - the plans for the hotel includes large, possibly four, public art placeholders on the building sketch, and the BAC was not invited to the meeting.

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p.3

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- Miah – Ivy Tech has plans for something along the b-line trail – in partnership with Fairview. Potentially in one of the ‘eyebrows’ on the trail. No proposal yet. They proposal will come to the BAC before it is considered.
- Craig – Most major hotels are willing to engage in public art. Lobby, outside the building. To make negative statements about their intentions is not helpful
- Craig – Parks. For example, Bloomington Waters is a piece of art. Pump is expensive and puts a burden on the city. It’s good to watch out for maintenance of art when considering possibilities.
- All – we need to be at the table when public art is considered.

Miah: grant review next month

- PDF sent to all, including spreadsheet
- Prompt – 5pm start time
- Sign-in for all groups to talk for up to two minutes.
- Awards will be made that evening
- \$12,750 available to be awarded

Adjourned meeting at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Martina Celerin